

Burt Rutan

Founder and CTO (Retired!) Designer Emeritus
Scaled Composites LLC
Mojave, California

For a distinguished career of highly innovative and successful flight vehicles ranging from home-built designs to Voyager and SpaceShipOne.



Burt Rutan's long career in development of experimental aircraft and the technology needed to fly them has made him one of the nation's leading innovators for the new age of commercial space flight. His founding of Scaled Composites LLC in 1982 established one of the world's most productive aerospace prototype development companies, where advanced aircraft design is melded with very advanced composites to create new generations of experimental, prototype, and research aircraft for the U.S. government and the private aerospace sector. These aircraft have contributed substantially to civilian and military aircraft development, and in some cases have established world records in performance and mission.

Rutan is the winner of the 2005 Ansari X-Prize for his design, manufacture and flight of the first privately built space plane "Spaceship One," and the 1986 Robert J. Collier Trophy for the "Rutan Voyager;" the first aircraft to fly around the world without refueling. Tonight's award is one of many AIM honors bestowed on Rutan. An AIM Fellow, he is the prior winner of the 1980 AIM Aircraft Design Award, 2006 AIM George M. Low Space Transportation Award, 2001 AIM Reed Aeronautics Award, and 1992 AIM Structures, Structural Dynamics, and Materials Award.